

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA - HEWSON A. RYAN (ACTING)

S/S - FVORTIZ

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201417 TOSEC 100072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, OAS, US, CU

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: REACTION TO LIFTING OF
THIRD COUNTRY SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA

TO THE SECRETARY FROM RYAN (ACTING)

KINGSTON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. MEDIA MONITORED ARE PREDOMINANTLY FAVORABLE. MOST
NEWS REPORTS INDICATED THAT WHILE ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMEN
EMPHASIZED OAS CONTEXT OF DECISION, IT MUST ALSO BE SEEN
IN BILATERAL CONTEXT. EDITORIAL REACTION SCANT: NY TIMES
WELCOMED ACTION AND SUGGESTED CUBA COULD CONTRIBUTE TO
IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS BY LOWERING ITS RHETORIC,
SPECIFICALLY SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE.

2. HANDFUL OF CONGRESSMEN WHO HAVE REACTED DURING THIS
AUGUST RECESS HAVE MOSTLY PRAISED DECISION: KENNEDY,
JAVITS AND MCGOVERN PUBLICLY, SPARKMAN PRIVATELY. STONE
SAID WE SHOULD HAVE EXTRACTED CONCESSIONS FROM CASTRO ON
HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT ADDED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT IN
ANY NEGOTIATIONS RECIPROCITY WOULD BE MAINTAINED WHICH HE
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APPROVED. GARN TOOK SIMILAR POSITION.

3. EXILE COMMUNITY HAS REACTED WITH MIXTURE OF OPPOSITION, RESIGNATION, AND SURPRISINGLY, FAVORABLE COMMENT FROM SOME WHO SEE ACTION AS IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF FELLOW CUBANS AND RELATIVES.

4. CASTRO IN AUGUST 21 INTERVIEW RESPONDED TO QUERY WHETHER LIFTING OF US EMBARGO EN TOTO WAS PRECONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS BY STATING QUOTE I BELIEVE SO. I FEEL THAT THE BASIC EFFECT OF THE BLOCKADE, THE MOST AGGRESSIVE FACET OF THE BLOCKADE, STILL PERSISTS IN THE TOTAL PROHIBITION OF TRADE BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA...NOTWITHSTANDING THIS CRITERIA WE CONSIDER THE MEASURE ANNOUNCED TODAY AS A POSITIVE GESTURE. IT GIVES US SATISFACTION AND WE WELCOME IT. AND IN OUR OPINION, IT IMPLIES AN ADVANCE TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING THE CONDITIONS THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ENGAGE IN DISCUSSIONS ON AN EQUAL BASIS AND WITH DIGNITY. UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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